Iqbal Chapter One

I have finished reading the first chapter of a realistic fiction novel called Iqbal by Francesco D’Adamo. This story is written from the point of view of a girl names Fatima who is bonded to Hussain Khan to pay of her family’s debt by working in a carpet factory located in Lahore, Pakistan. From reading chapter one I have learned a few characters that will be playing in the story, where the story takes place, and the purpose of what he book is about.

The author’s purpose for writing this text is to show child labour in the point of view of a girl that has been through a bonded labour for most of her child hood. My purpose of reading this chapter is to help me become a better reader, help me organize my thoughts by using EXPLORE, and to help me learn more about child labour.

Key lines in the chapter worth remembering are “I hadn’t dreamed for many months. I suspect many of us stopped dreaming.” This line is worth remembering because it shows me that Fatima has been working in the factory for along time and that she has lost hope. This is why she has stopped imagining because everyday she sees exactly the same thing. Another key line worth remembering is when Fatima said “That is until Iqbal arrived” because the way she phrased it, this tells me that she us very happy about his arrival and that her life is about to get exciting and she sounds like she has found hope. Characters introduced in the chapter is Hussain Khan who is the master of Fatima the narrator, the numskulls, and also Iqbal who was introduced at the end of chapter one. The story takes place at Lahore, Pakistan where the child labourers worked at a carpet factory.

An organizational feature or support that helped me read this chapter is that the novel is separated by chapter which helps me to organize my thoughts frequently, making me understand the chapter of the book. An organizational feature they should have included is that instead of numbers they should have words that connect to the chapter because numbers are hard to understand because it does not connect to the chapter I will be reading.

I can relate to the chapter because Fatima is working to pay off debts for her family and my parent’s work to pay bills or other debts just like Fatima. I could also relate to Fatima because I have a sister, a mother, and a father. I think about them just like how Fatima said “the first months I thought a lot about my family.”

I can evaluate my thinking with my ah-ha moments. One of my ah-ha moment was when I read “We had all been bonded to Hussain Khan” as soon as I read that part I instantly knew that it was about child labour. Questions that popped in my head was how old is Fatima? Why are the children afraid to escape? And what will Happen to Fatima and Iqbal later in the story.